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HISTORICAL NOTES

REBUILDING OF CHRIST CHURCH

The following advertisement fixes an approximate date for the rebuilding of Christ Church, which was burned by the British in 1783:—

“Christ Church Parish April 21, 1787.

Whereas the Vestry and Church wardens of the Episcopal Church in the parish of Christ Church, have resolved to rebuild the church and vestry house, as speedily as possible; therefore, public notice is hereby given to any person or persons, that are inclined to undertake the rebuilding of the same. . . .

STEPHEN TOWNSEND AND PAUL PRITCHARD

Church wardens.

S. C. Gazette and Morning Post, May 8, 1787,

ADVERTISEMENTS OF ARTISTS

Following are a few advertisements of artists and their works which have been gathered from the *Gazettes*.

S. C. Gaz. Dec. 15, 1766. Warwell, from London, now at Charles-Town, South-Carolina, Begs leave to inform the Curious, who are collecting Natural Productions for Cabinets or Grottoes, that they may be supplied with a great variety from his collection opposite to the Right. Hon. Lord Montagu's—He is finishing a Grotesque Fountain of 400 weight, composed of English Topazes, Amethysts and other Petrifications, and builds small ones for chimnies niches, or brackets—He paints Altar-Pieces, Landscapes, Sea pieces, Scene painting, coaches, windows and coach Blinds, Deceptive Triumphal Arches, Ruins, Obelisks Statues &c for Groves and Gardens—Pictures carefully cleaned or mended Gilding. A collection of Ancient Drawings to be sold. White-washed rooms or passages painted in water-colours, in a new and lively taste. On April 13, 1767. “Warwell Sr.” advertises that he intends to leave the Province.

So. Ca. Gazette, March 30, 1767. Lewis Turtaz, Limner and miniature painter, from Lausanne in Switzerland, Gives notice

That he proposes to open a School on Monday of April next, at Mr. David Boillat's (French Baker) in Church Street, to teach Drawing in all its branches and also Miniatures; and that he will wait upon ladies that chose it at their own houses.

He will also draw Ladies and Gentleman's Pictures in miniature at the moderate rate of Twenty pounds for a head and bust; one half to be paid at the beginning the other half on delivery of the peice.

Ibid. November 30, 1767. A parcel of Italian Marble Chimney Pieces of the newest fashion to be sold, Enquire on board the ship *America* lying at Col. Beale's wharf of

JOHN RAINIER.

So. Ca. Gazette. April 4, 1771. Mr. Fournier, Miniature Painter, &c. Is removed to Mrs. Rivers in Tradd St., almost opposite to Mr. Andrew Broughton's: and having now, in a great measure, recovered his health, is ready to wait upon any Gentlemen or Ladies who may be pleased to favor him with their Commands.

Ibid. May 7, 1772. Mr. Fournier, Miniature painter &c. Is returned from Georgia, He may be found at Mr. Juhans, in the House lately possessed by Dr. Fayssoux, near the New-England or White Meeting.

So. Ca. Gaz. Mar. 26, 1772. On Friday last, Mr. Bambridge, an ingenious Limner, &c. embarked on his Return to Philadelphia, with some other Passengers in the Brig. Prince of Wales, Capt. Moore.

Ibid. April 5, 1773. . . . From Philadelphia, Mrs. Benbridge (the wife of Mr. Benbridge, Portrait Painter) a very ingenious Miniature Paintress.

[Henry Bembridge was born in Philadelphia about 1750; studied in Rome under Pompeo Battoni, and received instructions from Meng. He is said to have commenced his portrait painting in CharlesTown, and was the instructor of Thomas Coram. He married a Miss Sage of Philadelphia. In 1799, according to Thomas Sully, he was settled in Norfolk, Va. He died in Philadelphia in poverty. (Dunlap—*Hist. Arts of Design in U. S.* vol. 1.)

The *Copley-Pelham Letters*, page 208, Dr. John Morgan to Mr. Byers, Philadelphia, Nov. 24, 1773, mentions Bembridge as follows

"In a visit I lately made to CharlesTown South Carolina, I

saw Mr. Bambridge, who is settled very advantageously there, and prosecutes his Profession with Reputation and success.”]

So Ca. Gaz. Dec. 31, 1772. The *General Gazette* of last Monday tells us, that “A Lady arrived here a few Days ago who is a Niece of her Majesty’s Portrait Painter, the celebrated Miss Reid, and was by her instructed in the Art of painting Portraits in Crayons, which we are informed, she intends following here.”—But that Paper does not favour us with her name, or make it known that she is a Scotch Lady, and related to the Hon. His Majesty’s Superintendant &c. of Indian Affairs for this District.

So. Ca. Gaz. Dec. 12, 1774. The Drawing and Painting Academy (as formerly advertised) was opened on Wednesday the 23d. Nov. last, by John & Hamilton Stevenson, Limners, who propose to teach the Principles and Practice of this beautiful Art in all its various Branches, after the Manner they are taught in the Roman Schools, viz. Portraits, Landscapes, Flowers, Birds, Figures and Drawing from the Bust and Statue, in a stile never before taught in this Province; Painting from the Life in Crayons and in Miniature on Ivory:

They Continue to paint, as usual, at their House in Meeting Street, next Door to James Parson’s Esq; History and Portraits, Large, in Miniature for Rings and Bracelets; executed in Colors, in a Manner never before attempted: also sewing with Hair upon Silk for Bracelets, a Method which preserves the Hair and Work to the Latest Ages.

Hamilton Stevenson has been employed for some years of late in the most distinguished Families at Home, as a teacher of Drawing and painting. They intend to give a Constant Place and Materials *gratis* to Two Young Men of Genius that may be recommended by the Church-Wardens or the South Carolina Society, the Place to be supplied by new Pupils every Year.

S. C. Gazette, Supplement, Oct. 31, 1774. Proposals for publishing by Subscription, A view of Charles-Town; This view has been taken with the greatest Accuracy and Care by Mr. Leech, who is now employed about painting a finished Picture from the Drawings already made by him—The Picture will be ready to send home by the best Ships, expected from London, in order to be engraved; and will be so exact a Portrait of the Town, as it appears from the Water, that House in View will be distinctly known:—

And that nothing might be wanting to render it most complete, the two greatest Artists in the World—Messrs. Woollett and Smith have been engaged to undertake to engrave it.

Mr. Leech cannot support the Expence of such a Work without Assistance, and therefore proposes to all the Lovers of Polite Arts, opening a subscription, at so low a Price as a Guinea a Piece:—Half to be paid down at the Time of Subscribing, the other half on the Delivery of the Print.

The Print will be Thirty Inches long, by Eighteen high: and the Impressions may be most compleate, as soon as Three Hundred are subscribed for, the Subscription will be closed, the Picture sent Home, and no more Struck off than are Subscribed for. The Print will be delivered the First of January, 1776. . . . Subscriptions will be received by Mr. Leech, at his House in Meeting Street, opposite the Surveyor General's Office. . . .